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News Release

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\$4 million earmarked for county road resurfacing projects

LĪHU'E – With \$2 million from the state added to \$2 million of the county's annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds, a total of \$4 million has been appropriated for road resurfacing projects this fiscal year.

Expressing his approval of the funds earmarked for roadwork, Mayor Bryan J. Baptiste said, "We appreciate the tremendous support we've received from the governor and the Legislature along with the County Council in our efforts to take care of basics such as roads that had been deferred for years."

"We're preparing a preliminary list of roads that are due for resurfacing and are hoping that, given the amount of money we have to work with, we can do a lot more roads than we've able to in previous years," said Ryan Nishikawa, head of the county's Roads Division. "We're also looking into the possibility of installing guardrails in several locations."

The width of the roads as well as the cost of labor and materials will determine how many roads end up on the list, said Nishikawa.

He explained that county roads vary tremendously in width. Some of the old back roads are merely 12-feet wide, while roads in the middle of a major town are as wide as 40 feet. On average, county roads are 24-feet wide.

“It would be nice if labor and materials don’t go up, too, but we won’t know what these costs will be until we go out to bid early next year,” Nishikawa said.

He expects the preliminary list of roads pegged for resurfacing to be ready by the end of next week. Then it’ll be sent to the Mayor and the County Council for their input.

“Once we get everyone’s approval, we’ll start developing a concrete plan for the road resurfacing projects,” said Nishikawa.

Last fiscal year, which ended June 30, approximately 15 miles of county roads were resurfaced including 1-1/3 miles on the north shore, three miles on the eastside, nine miles on the south shore and 1-1/3 miles on the westside.

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